

LAW OFFICES
CATALANO & PLACHE, PLLC
3221 M Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20007

Telephone (202) 338-3200
Facsimile (202) 338-1700

November 11, 2004

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

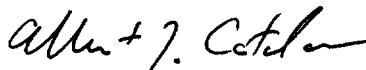
Re: *Ex Parte* Notice, Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service;
CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Secretary Dortch:

Pursuant to Section 1.1206 of the rules of the Federal Communications Commission ("Commission"), 47 CFR § 1.1206, this letter provides notice that on November 10, 2004, Donald Manning, Vice President, Secretary and General Counsel of NPCR, Inc. and Nextel Partners of Upstate New York, Inc. (collectively, "Nextel Partners"), along with Albert J. Catalano and Matthew J. Plache of Catalano & Plache, PLLC, counsel to Nextel Partners, met with Commissioner Kevin J. Martin and Daniel Gonzalez, Senior Legal Advisor to Commissioner Martin. At the meeting, the attendees discussed the Rural Local Exchange Carriers' ("Rural LECS") Application for Review of the Bureau's Order in the above-referenced proceeding designating Nextel Partners as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC) in seven states. We discussed the issues raised in the Application for Review and the procedural deficiencies of the Rural LECs' arguments as discussed in Nextel Partners' Opposition to the Application for Review and Motion to Strike the Rural LECs' Reply to Opposition. We discussed the difficulty in staying the Bureau's Order in light of the finality of other ETC designation orders.

In addition, we discussed the maps submitted by TDS Telecom ("TDS") in the course of recent *ex parte* communications and discussed Nextel Partners' advertising and its commitment to provide the ETC supported services within the study areas in which Nextel Partners has in fact been designated as an ETC, noting that Nextel Partners has not been designated in many of the study areas depicted on the TDS maps.

Very truly yours,



Albert J. Catalano

Cc: Commissioner Kevin J. Martin
Daniel Gonzalez, Senior Legal Advisor to Commissioner Martin

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